

Case Study

Module 14: The Malpai Borderlands

Study Questions

1. Disruption of long-term disturbance regimes (fire), perturbations (grazing), and environmental stressors (change in climate) have changed the nature of the landscape, especially the vegetative community. Prescribed fire at the landscape scale is being used as a management tool to discourage woody vegetation and enhance the native grassland/shrub savannah of the borderlands. Integrating what you have learned about hydrologic processes and soils, how will re-introducing fire affect the surface waters of the area?
2. Land managers and conservationists working and living within the Malpai Borderlands recognize the need to consider the different time scales within which they can influence the landscape. In the short-term (< 20 years), what changes can they expect to see in this landscape as their fire management strategy is implemented? In the long-term, what might be expected ecologically and culturally?



